

**INDIANA COMMISSION ON AGING (COA)  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES MARCH 20, 2008**

**Indiana Government Center South, Conference Room 4  
402 W. Washington St., Indianapolis, IN**

**COA Members in Attendance:** Noble Stallons, Anita McColleston, John (Bob) Johnson, Ed Gottschling, Roxsandra Clemons-McFarthing, Geneva Sams

**Commission Members Absent:** Glen Bonsett, Humbert Lopes, Lena Roberson, Doris Parker, Richard (Dick) Grace

**Staff in Attendance:** Jackie Cissell, Anne Dennis, Jade Luchauer, Celeste Stinson

**Call to Order:** Noble Stallons brought the meeting to order. A motion was made by Bob Johnson to approve the minutes and seconded by Ed Gottschling, with unanimous approval from the Commission.

**Division of Aging Discussion:** Jackie Cissell, Assistant Director for Strategic Initiatives, provided the Division of Aging update. The Division of Aging held its first Adult Foster Care Advisory Board meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup> and there were 23 providers in attendance. Jackie also provided information on upcoming conferences, including Active Aging Conference in Muncie, Spring Time in Paris in Bloomington, and Indiana Black Expo in Indianapolis.

Ed Gottschling inquired about the Division of Aging's involvement in assisted living facilities as well as what is being done for male homelessness. Jackie said the local Area Agency on Aging and 211 systems could be of service.

Jackie discussed the Volunteer Community Action Network, or VCAN, and said this is modernizing the way Hoosiers apply for aid. There are currently over 1,000 VCAN members across the state that anyone can use for assistance and referral.

Anne Dennis, Assistant Director for Analysis and Planning, provided an overview of the AdvantAge Initiative Survey, which is designed to identify if a community is elder-friendly. The results of the state-wide telephone survey will be available this summer.

Jade Luchauer, Assistant Director for CHOICE and AoA Administration, said March is Nutrition Month and on March 12<sup>th</sup>, all the meal sites in Indiana had the same menu. Many Division of Aging staff visited local meal sites and shared lunch with seniors.

Noble Stallons mentioned that January's presentation about the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) was very informative and he was pleased to see the program is gaining momentum. Geneva Sams shared that she has heard many doctors are confused about the program and

how it will work. Jade said she will follow up with Amanda Schipp, who gave the HIP presentation.

**Transportation Review:** Noble discussed his strong interest in transportation and that it is consistently an issue for seniors. He said he is involved in developing a driver's training program for the elderly and this is necessary to maximize connectivity and independence. Noble asked the Commissioners to review their local transportation programs and identify what is working.

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

**Congressional Districts Discussion:** Commissioners discussed the conversion to digital television and how it will impact seniors. The government is providing coupons toward the purchase of converters, but the coupons must be sent to a household. As a nursing home is not considered a household, many elderly are having difficulty receiving these coupons. Noble asked Commissioners to call their local representative to request an exemption for nursing homes.

Noble asked for a volunteer to chair the nominating committee and Commissioners decided they would discuss the topic at lunch.

**Adjournment:** With no further business the meeting was adjourned.